

REMARKS

Claims 20, 23, 24, 29, 30, 38, 40, 43 to 56 and 65 to 68 are now pending in this application. Claims 14 to 19, 21, 22, 25 to 28, 31 to 37, 39, 41, 42 and 57 to 64 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 20 has been amended to be independent in accordance with the present Office Action's indication (at page 4) that claim 20 would be allowable if so amended. Claims 23 and 24 have been amended to be independent and incorporate all limitations recited in claim 14 as examined in the Office Action dated March 21, 2008. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to be independent and incorporate all limitations recited in claim 26 as examined in the Office Action dated March 21, 2008. The Office Action dated March 21, 2008 (at page 4) indicated that claims 23, 24, 29, and 30, would be allowable if so amended. The amendments add no new matter to the present specification.

Claim Objections and Allowed Claims

Claims 20, 23, 24, 29, 30, 38 and 40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, according to the Office Action, these would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the interest of moving the present application toward allowance, applicants have amended claims 20, 23, 24, 29 and 30 to be in independent form as requested by the Office. Applicants therefore request that the objections against these claims be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed. With regard to claims 38 and 40, applicants respectfully point out that these were amended to be in independent in applicants' Amendment in Reply to Final Action of March 21, 2008. Applicants therefore request that the objections against these claims be withdrawn and that the claims be found allowable.

Applicants acknowledge the Office's conclusion that claims 43 to 56 and 65 to 68 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)


Claims 14 to 18, 22, 25 to 28, 31, 35 to 37, 39, 41, 42 and 57 to 64 were rejected as allegedly obvious over Otterbein et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0258772) in view of Shaffer (Patent No. 5,429,123). Claims 32 and 33 were rejected over Otterbein, Shaffer and Aldridge (Patent No. 5,810,723). Claim 34 was rejected over Otterbein, Shaffer and Stone (Patent No. 5,293,875). Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice solely in the interest of moving the present application toward allowance, thereby obviating each of the rejections recited above. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request that all claims be allowed. This Reply is being filed along with a Petition for Extension of Time for a one-month extension. The fees for the excess claims (\$880) and Petition (\$130) are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 18661-0002US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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